

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/909,901

Examiner

Qi Han

Applicant(s)

MURATA ET AL.

Art Unit

2654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/25/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-13 and 16-34.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the applicant's amendment dated 07/25/2005.

Applicant amended claims 3-4, 8-9, 13, 16-17, 21-24, 26-28 and 30-31, canceled claims 1-2, 14-15 and 35-38 (see the amendment: pages 2-22 and also see the examiner's amendment regarding claims 35-38 below).

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see amendment, filed 07/05/2005, with respect to the disclosure objection and claim rejection, have been fully considered.

The examiner withdraws the disclosure objection because the applicant made correction, amendment, and/or clarification (see amendment: pages 21-23).

The examiner withdraws the claim rejection because applicant made amendment, cancellation, and clarification (see amendment: pages 2-29 and the examiner's amendment below).

Examiner's Amendment

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

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Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was proved by the applicant's representative, Catherine M. Voorhees, through a telephone call on 10/14/2005. The Examiner's Amendment is as following:

In the Claims (see the amendment filed 07/25/2005):

Claims 35-38, on pages 18-20, are cancelled.

Claim 31, on page 16,

line 5 of the claim, replace "the natural language processing apparatus comprising:" with --the natural language processing method comprising:--;

line 6 of the claim, before "a pattern dictionary", insert --providing--;

line 12 of the claim, after "the left and/or right side", replace ", the method comprising the following steps:" with --;--.

-----End of Examiner's Amendment-----

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3-13 and 16-34 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent **claims 27 and 31**, the instant application is directed to a method and apparatus for achieving a syntax analysis/generation by using natural language patterns with language name, syntax pattern name and pattern component. Each independent claim, combining other well known features in the art, identifies the uniquely distinct features of: providing a pattern dictionary having stored therein natural language patterns in pairs that

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include the source language pattern and the target language pattern, each pair being formed in a string with, at least a language name, a pattern name given as a left side member and a pattern component given as a right side member, the source and target language patterns being stored in advance and having a central element information prescribing a central pattern element in a feature restriction or a feature propagation on the left and/or the right side; a pattern application step for applying the natural language patterns to the tree structure if the natural language patterns meet the tree structure and for propagating the feature restriction if the natural language patterns have the central element information.

The prior art of record, Duan et al. (US 6,778,949 B2), Suematsu (US 5,418,716), Saraki (US 5,903,858), Su et al. (US 5,418,717), Fukumochi et al. (US 5,644,774), Tokuume et al. (US 5,101,349), and Matsui (US 5,151,857), provided numerous teachings and approaches for natural language processing, including syntactic analysis and generation, transfer grammar to match source language, providing example database with feature structure pairs, parsing tree based data structure, using parts of speech (POS) and priority information, analyzing a word with multiple meanings, providing user registration, content variables and logical operation for the language processing. However, the above combined features, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over the prior art of the record.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

6. Please address mail to be delivered by the United States Postal Service (USPS) as follows:

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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or faxed to: 571-273-8300, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or: 571-273-8300, (for informal or draft communications, and please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

If no Mail Stop is indicated below, the line beginning Mail Stop should be omitted from the address.

Effective January 14, 2005, except correspondence for Maintenance Fee payments, Deposit Account Replenishments (see 1.25(c)(4)), and Licensing and Review (see 37 CFR 5.1(c) and 5.2(c)), please address correspondence to be delivered by other delivery services (Federal Express (Fed Ex), UPS, DHL, Laser, Action, Purolater, etc.) as follows:

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
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Randolph Building
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Qi Han whose telephone numbers is (571) 272-7604. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil, can be reached on (571) 272-7602.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Inquiries regarding the status of submissions relating to an application or questions on the Private PAIR system should be directed to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028 between the hours of 6 a.m. and midnight Monday through Friday EST, or by e-mail at: ebc@uspto.gov. For general information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

QH/qh
October 14, 2005


RICHEMOND DORVIL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER